

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MAPUTO 01492 081842Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /071 W

-----105335 081844Z /64

O 081500Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6507

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MAPUTO 1492

BRUSSELS FOR USDEL SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: RH

SUBJECT: NKOMO AND MUGABE PRESS CONFERENCE IN MAPUTO

1. SUMMARY. PATRIOTIC FRONT (PF) PRESS RELEASE ISSUED TODAY BY PF LEADERS JOSHUA NKOMO AND ROBERT MUGABE STATES THAT PF WILL NOT BE SENDING A DELEGATION TO LONDON FOR DECEMBER 13 TALKS WITH BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY DAVID OWEN. HOWEVER, NKOMO AND MUGABE DID NOT CLOSE THE DOOR TO FUTURE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE BRITISH. IN PRESS RELEASE AND LETTER (READ AT PRESS CONFERENCE) FROM NKOMO AND MUGABE TO OWEN, PF CO-LEADERS INDICATED THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO DISCUSS THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSAL IF "DR. OWEN CLEARLY RECOMMITTS HIMSELF TO HIS ORIGINAL UNDERTAKING TO WORK FOR TRANSITIONAL AGREEMENT INCLUDING THE REMOVAL OF SMITH AND THE RHODESIAN FRONT AND THE DISMANTLING OF THE SETTLER FORCES." END SUMMARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MAPUTO 01492 081842Z

2. FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF FOUR AND A-HALF DAYS OF MEETINGS, PF LEADERS JOSHUA NKOMO AND ROBERT MUGABE HELD A 30-MINUTE PRESS CONFERENCE IN MAPUTO. PF LEADERS RELEASED TWO STATEMENTS: A PRESS RELEASE SUMMARIZING SOME OF THE ISSUES THEY DISCUSSED AND TEXT OF A LETTER FROM NKOMO AND MUGABE TO FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN ABOUT HIS INVITATION FOR THEM TO MEET WITH HIM. PF PRESS RELEASE WAS HIGHLY CRITICAL

OF DR. OWEN FOR HIS RECENT REMARKS FOLLOWING RHODESIAN  
RAIDS INTO MOZAMBIQUE AND STATED THAT PF WOULD NOT BE  
SENDING DELEGATION TO TMEET WITH OWN IN LONDON ON DECEMBER 13.  
HOWEVER, PRESS RELEASE MADE IT CLEAR THAT PF WOULD  
CONSIDER FUTURE TALKS WITH BRITISH IF DR. OWEN WERE SINCERELY  
COMMITTED TO REMOVING SMITH FROM POWER AND DISMANTLING  
EXISTING RHODESIAN MILITARY JNITS.

3. NKOMO AND MUGABE LETTER TO OWN COVERED SAME GROUND AS  
PRESS RELEASE ND CLEARLY LEFT DOOR OPEN FOR FURTHER PF/BRITISH  
TALKS ON ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSAL.

4. AT CONCLUSION OF PRESS CONFERENCE, NKOMO ANSWERED  
TWO QUESTIONS AND MUGABE ONE. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION  
ABOUT WHETHER HE WAS NOW REVERSING HIS POSITION ON MEETING  
WITH OWEN ON THE 13TH, NKOMO DENIED STRONGLY THAT HE HAD  
EVER AGREED TO MEET WITH OWEN IN LONDON. "I HAVE NEVER  
ACCEPTED THE BRITISH OFFER TO MEET IN LONDON," HE DECLARED.  
ON ELECTIONS, NKOMO SAID THAT AT NO TIME HAD HE EVER  
REJECTED ELECTIONS. HE ALSO REMARKED THAT KAUNDA'S VIEWS  
ON ELECTION IN ZIMBABWE "ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE  
PATRIOTIC FRONT." IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION ABOUT WHETHER  
THE PF WAS WILLING TO ENTER INTO MEANINGFUL DISCUSSIONWITH  
LORD CARVER ABOUT CEASEFIRE ARRANGEMENTS, MUGABE  
REPLIED THAT WHEN THE PF MET WITH CARVER IN DAR THEY ADE  
IT KNOWN THAT THEY WERE THERE TO LISTEN TO CARVER'S IDEAS  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MAPUTO 01492 081842Z

AND THAT THE FIRST SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE PF  
AND THE BRITISH "SHOULD BE THE TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS."

5. FULL TEXTS OF PF PRESS RELEASE AND NKOMO-MUGABE LETTER  
FOLLOW SEPTELS.  
DEPREE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS CONFERENCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 08-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977MAPUTO01492  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770457-0053  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** MAPUTO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19771278/aaaacoiw.tel  
**Line Count:** 100  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 2382b708-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 08-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 310921  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NKOMO AND MUGABE PRESS CONFERENCE IN MAPUTO  
**TAGS:** SOPN, RH  
**To:** STATE BRUSSELS  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/2382b708-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009